

APPENDIX ONE

KEY DATES IN HISTORY OF REFUGEE-SOURCE COUNTRIES

Sudan Timeline

Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since independence from the UK in 1956. Sudan was embroiled in two prolonged civil wars during most of the remainder of the 20th century. These conflicts were rooted in northern economic, political, and social domination of largely non-Muslim, non-Arab southern Sudanese. The first civil war ended in 1972 but broke out again in 1983. The second war and famine-related effects resulted in more than four million people displaced and, according to rebel estimates, more than two million deaths over a period of two decades.

Peace talks gained momentum in 2002-04 with the signing of several accords. The final North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in January 2005, granted the southern rebels autonomy for six years. The referendum for independence scheduled for January 2011 (agreed as part of the CPA) is likely to move South Sudan towards becoming its own country. A separate conflict, which broke out in the western region of Darfur in 2003, has displaced nearly two million people and caused an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 deaths. The UN took command of the Darfur peacekeeping operation from the African Union on 31 December 2007. Armed conflict, poor transport infrastructure, and lack of government support have chronically obstructed the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

Until the second half of 2008, Sudan's economy boomed on the back of increases in oil production, high oil prices, and large inflows of foreign direct investment. GDP growth registered more than 10% per year in 2006 and 2007. From 1997 to date, Sudan has been working with the IMF to implement macroeconomic reforms, including a managed float of the exchange rate. Sudan began exporting crude oil in the last quarter of 1999. Agricultural production remains important, because it employs 80% of the work force and contributes a third of GDP. The Darfur conflict, the aftermath of two decades of civil war in the south, the lack of basic infrastructure in large areas, and a reliance by much of the population on subsistence agriculture ensure much of the population will remain at or below the poverty line for years despite rapid rises in average per capita income.

Ethnic groups: black 52%, Arab 39%, Beja 6%, foreigners 2%, other 1%

Religions: Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum), indigenous beliefs 25%

Modern time Sudan

1820: Sudan is conquered by Turkey and Egypt.

1881: Rebellion against the Turkish-Egyptian administration.

1882: The British invade Sudan.

1885: An Islamic state is founded in Sudan.

1899: Sudan is governed by British-Egyptian rule.

1955: Revolt and start of the civil war.

Independence

1956: Sudan gains independence.

1958: General Abbud leads military coup against the civilian government elected earlier in the year. The civilian government is removed.

1962: The civil war breaks out in the southern (mainly Christian/African) parts of Sudan, led by the Anya Nya movement.

October 1964: People of Sudan rebels. The military junta falls after a communist general strike. A national government is formed. The "October Revolution" overthrows Abbud and a national government is established

May 1969: the 'May Revolution' military coup places Jaafar Numeiri (also Gaafar an-Nimeiry) in power with the support of communist and socialist leaders.

1971: Leaders of the Sudanese Communist Party are executed for attempting a coup against Numeiri.

Mohammed Wardi, Nubian-Sudanese singer known as the Golden Throat, began a 2 year prison term under the authoritarian regime of Gen. Jaafar Nimeiri, who ruled Sudan from 1969-1985.¹

1972 March 27: A peace agreement is signed in Addis Ababa ending fighting between the north and south Sudan. The southern Sudan achieves partial self-governance. Under the Addis Ababa peace agreement between the government and the Anya Nya the south becomes a self-governing region.

1973 Sep: Gen. Jaafar Nimeiri, Sudan's military ruler, introduces Islamic Sharia law.

¹ <http://timelinesdb.com/listevents.php?subjid=185&dayinhist=&date1=-9999999999&date2=9999999999&words=&title=Sudan&fromrec=0>

Ingredients for war: Oil and Sharia

1978: Large findings of oil are made in Bentiu, southern Sudan by Chevron. The oil becomes an important factor in the strife between North and South.

1983: Sudan's Pres. Gaafar Numeiri brought in Sharia law as the basis for criminal law causing much grievance in the non-Muslim south. Numieri introduces the Islamic Sharia law to Sudan leading to a new breakout of the civil war in the Christian south. In the south the forces are led by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) under command by John Garang.

1985 Jan 18 Mahmud Mohammed Taha (b.1909) was hanged for refusing to recant his unorthodox views on Islam. Sudanese president Jaafar Nimeiri, on the advice of Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, ordered the execution.

1985 April 4: President Numieri is removed from power in a military coup and replaced by Gen. Dahab. After widespread popular unrest Numayri is deposed by a group of officers and a Transitional Military Council is set up to rule the country.

1986: A civilian government is made in an effort to restore peace after general elections. Coalition government formed after general elections, with Sadiq al-Mahdi as prime minister.

1988: Famine in Bahr El Ghazal, southwestern Sudan, kills an estimated 250,000 people²

1989: The elected coalition government of Sadiq al-Mahdi is overthrown in a military coup. Omar Hassan al-Bashir and Sheik Hassan al-Turabi, brother-in-law of Sadiq el-Mahdi, seize power. They imposed an Iranian style theocracy along with the strict Muslim Shariah law on the country including the Christian southern Sudan. The National Islamic Front (NIF) overthrew a democratic government under prime minister Sadiq el-Mahdi and have ruled ever since. The Umma Party and the Democratic Union party established bases in Cairo and Eritrea and later allied with rebel groups that included the Southern People's Liberation Party. Al-Bashir and his Islamic Front (NIC) takes power in a military coup. National Salvation Revolution takes over in military coup.

1991 August 28: Bor-Dinka massacre or more than 2000 people in the southern city of Bor. Neur people massacred Dinka because of a split in the SPLA along tribal lines; Dinka fighters supporting John Garang and Neur fighters supporting Riek Machar.³

² Human Rights Watch http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/sudan/SUDAWEB2.htm#P374_19682

New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/1990/02/04/weekinreview/the-world-for-the-sudan-famine-is-almost-as-certain-as-civil-war.html>

³ Sudan Tribune <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article23513>, BBC Journalist Personal Reflection <http://83.137.212.42/site/Archive/catalystmagazine/Default.aspx?LocID=0hgnew0hu.Refl.ocID-0hg01b00100600g004.Lang-EN.htm>, 'The lost boys of Sudan: an American story of the refugee experience', Mark Bixler p129

1992 In Kenya the Kakuma camp is founded for some 30,000 refugees from Sudan.

1993 - Revolution Command Council dissolved after Omar al-Bashir is appointed president.

1995: The Sudanese government are accused of being part of an attempt on the life of Egyptian prime minister Mubarak. UN decides on sanctions against Sudan.

1998: Famine: the worst affected area was Bahr El Ghazal in southwestern Sudan. In this region over 70,000 people died during the famine.

1998: USA launches a missile attack on a chemical plant in Khartoum assumed to develop chemical weapons possibly in cooperation with the Al'Qaeda terror network. Civilians are killed in the attack. The Sudanese government denies any link to terror and chemical weapons.

1998: A new constitution in Sudan endorsed by 96% of voters in a referendum.

1999: President Bashir dissolves the National Assembly and declares a state of emergency following a power struggle with parliamentary speaker, Hassan al-Turabi..

1999 September: Flood in Northern State Capital of Dongola⁴

1999: Sudan start an export of oil assisted by China, Canada, Sweden and other countries.

2001: An internal struggle in the government, leads to the arrest of an ideological leader who were making peace attempts with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)

March 2001: Hunger and famine in Sudan affects 3 million people.

May 2001: A Danish pilot flying for the International Red Cross is attacked and killed when delivering aid in southern Sudan. All flights in the area are temporarily stopped.

June 2001: Peace negotiations breaks down in Nairobi, Kenya.

August 2001: The Nile river floods leaving thousands homeless in Sudan.

September 2001: the UN lifts on sanctions against Sudan to support ongoing peace negotiations.

October 2001: Following the New York terror attacks, USA puts new sanctions on Sudan due to accusations of Sudan's involvment with international terrorism.

⁴ BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/445191.stm>

During 2001: More than 14,550 slaves are freed after pressure from human rights groups.

New hope for peace?

January 2002: A ceasefire between government forces and the SPLM are finally agreed upon.

July 20th 2002: the government and SPLA signs a protocol to end the civil war.

July 27th 2002: President al-Bashir meets for the first time with SPLA leader John Garang. Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni has arranged the meeting. The war in Sudan is also having huge impact on the northern Uganda.

July 31st 2002: Government attacks SPLA again.

October 2002: The ceasefire is confirmed again, but remains very uncertain. Peace negotiations still continues during the next years.

February 2003: The 2 rebel groups representing the African population in Darfur starts a rebellion against the government as protest against neglect and suppression.

December 2003: Progress is made in the peace negotiations. The negotiations are mainly focused on sharing the important oil-resources.

Ethnic killings in Darfur

January 2004: Government army strikes down on uprising in Darfur region in the Western Sudan. More than 100,000 people seeks refuge in Chad.

March 2004: UN officers reports that systematic killings on villagers are taking place in Darfur. UN names Darfur as the worst humanitarian disaster currently, but nothing happens. UN fails to take action as Western countries and media has close to no focus on the problems in Sudan. But even the African leaders refuse to take action on the problem.

May 26th 2004: A historic peace agreement is signed, but the situation in Darfur remains unchanged and extremely critical.

January 9th 2005 : In Nairobi the government and rebels signs the last parts of the peace treaty for Southern Sudan. All fighting in Africa's longest civil war is expected to end in January 2005, but the peace agreement still doesn't cover the Darfur region. More than 1.5 million people lost their homes since the conflict in Darfur broke out early 2003.

March 15th 2005: United Nations Security Council agrees to send 10,000 peace keeping soldiers to Southern Sudan. Again the decision does not cover the Darfur region.

2005 July 31: Death of John Garang in a helicopter accident at age 60, while holding the post of vice-president of Sudan.

2006 May - Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement, sign a peace accord. Two smaller rebel groups reject the deal. Fighting continues.

2006 August - Sudan rejects a UN resolution calling for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, saying it would compromise sovereignty.

2006 October - Jan Pronk, the UN's top official in Sudan, is expelled.

2006 November - African Union extends mandate of its peacekeeping force in Darfur for six months.

Hundreds are thought to have died in the heaviest fighting between northern Sudanese forces and their former southern rebel foes since they signed a peace deal last year. Fighting is centred on the southern town of Malakal.

2007: Violence and killings continues in the Darfur region. The conflict is in reality a genocide and is still considered the worst humanitarian disaster in the world. But not much is done about it. China has large oil interests in Africa and Sudan in particular. UN sanctions and security forces are needed, but China blocks any real decisions in the UN security council. The rest of the world is not applying the necessary political pressure on the governments in Sudan and China.

2007 May - International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for a minister and a janjaweed militia leader suspected of Darfur war crimes.

US President George W Bush announces fresh sanctions against Sudan.

2007 July - UN Security Council approves a resolution authorising a 26,000-strong force for Darfur. Sudan says it will co-operate with the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (Unamid).

2007 July and August: Flooding in south Sudan (worst in the states of Kassala, Khartoum, Northern Kordofan, Unity State, Lakes, Jonglei and Upper Nile)⁵

2007 October - SPLM temporarily suspends participation in national unity government, accusing Khartoum of failing to honour the 2005 peace deal.

2007 December - SPLM resumes participation in national unity government.

2008 January - UN takes over Darfur peace force.

Within days Sudan apologises after its troops fire on a convoy of Unamid, the UN-African Union hybrid mission.

Government planes bomb rebel positions in West Darfur, turning some areas into no-go zones for aid workers.

⁵ Press release by the UN <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/LSGZ-75TGFJ?OpenDocument>

2008 February - Commander of the UN-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, Balla Keita, says more troops needed urgently in west Darfur.

2008 March - Russia says it's prepared to provide some of the helicopters urgently needed by UN-African Union peacekeepers.

Tensions rise over clashes between an Arab militia and SPLM in Abyei area on north-south divide - a key sticking point in 2005 peace accord.

Presidents of Sudan and Chad sign accord aimed at halting five years of hostilities between their countries.

2008 April - Counting begins in national census which is seen as a vital step towards holding democratic elections after the landmark 2005 north-south peace deal.

UN humanitarian chief John Holmes says 300,000 people may have died in the five-year Darfur conflict.

2008 May - Southern defence minister Dominic Dim Deng is killed in a plane crash in the south.

Tension increases between Sudan and Chad after Darfur rebel group mounts raid on Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Nile. Sudan accuses Chad of involvement and breaks off diplomatic relations.

Intense fighting breaks out between northern and southern forces in disputed oil-rich town of Abyei.

2008 June - President Bashir and southern leader Salva Kiir agree to seek international arbitration to resolve dispute over Abyei.

2008 July - The International Criminal Court's top prosecutor calls for the arrest of President Bashir for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur; the appeal is the first ever request to the ICC for the arrest of a sitting head of state. Sudan rejects the indictment.

2008 September - Darfur rebels accuse government forces backed by militias of launching air and ground attacks on two towns in the region.

2008 October - Allegations that Ukrainian tanks hijacked off the coast of Somalia were bound for southern Sudan spark fears of an arms race between the North and former rebels in the South.

2008 November - President Bashir announces an immediate ceasefire in Darfur, but the region's two main rebel groups reject the move, saying they will fight on until the government agrees to share power and wealth in the region.

2008 December - The Sudanese army says it has sent more troops to the sensitive oil-rich South Kordofan state, claiming that a Darfur rebel group plans to attack the area.

2009 January - Sudanese Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi is arrested after saying President Bashir should hand himself in to The Hague to face war crimes charges for the Darfur war.

2009 March - The International Criminal Court in The Hague issues an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

2009 May - An estimated 250 people in central Sudan are killed during a week of clashes between nomadic groups fighting over grazing land and cattle in the semi-arid region of Southern Kordofan. Conflict raises concern about further insecurity ahead of national elections due in 2010.

2009 June - The leader of South Sudan and vice-president of the country, Salva Kiir, warns his armed forces are being re-organised so they are prepared for any return to war with the north. His remarks follow claims, denied by the Khartoum government, that it is supplying arms to ethnic groups in the south to destabilise the region.

Sudan's presidential election, due to take place in February 2010, is postponed by two months after former rebels in the south disputed new census results.

2009 July - Arbitration court in The Hague rules on disputed Abyei region, shrinking it and placing the major Heglig oil field in the north. North and south Sudan say they accept the decision.

President Al-Bashir cancelled plans to travel to Uganda following speculation he could be arrested, according to Ugandan officials.

The trial of a Sudanese woman charged with wearing "indecent" clothing has been adjourned, but will continue after she decided to waive her immunity. A Khartoum judge told Lubna Ahmed Hussein she could have immunity because she works for the UN.

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Hazara Timeline⁶

1933-1973 Reign of Zahir Shah that represented a time of modernisation for the Hazaras. Many Hazaras migrated from rural areas to Kabul and other urban areas.

Late 1960s: The emergence of the two new political parties among Hazaras. 1) The Socialist group: The Sholai Javid (New-Democratic Party Moist group) and the People Democratic Party of Afghanistan PDPA (Khaq-o Parcham) and 2) the Sazman-e Nasr (Victory group).

Although these parties were not specific to Hazaras, the Sholai Javid (Maoist group) became a Hazara specific party among most of the less educated people because one of the founders, Akram Yari, was a Hazara from Jaghori and the leader of the party.

1978: Mohammad Daoud Khan arrives to a warm welcome in July.

1978 April: Coup installs Noor Mohammad Taraki

1978 April – 1979 September: Noor Mohammad Taraki regime

1979 April: Hazara people from Hazarajat (central highlands area) revolt against the Kabul government and shatter strategic points across Ghor, Bamyan and Urozgan

1979 late: the different groups in Hazarajat gather in Panjaw, Banyan and establish the 'Shura-i-Inqilab Itifaq Islami Afghanistan' under the leadership of Sayed Ali Behishti

1979 Autumn: the Melliat (nationality) policy program of PDPA decided to offer education in different languages such as Pashto, Farsi, Uzbaki, Trukman and Baluchi, but not Hazara.

1979 September – 1979 December: Hafizullah Amin Regime

1979 December – May 1986: Babrak Karmal Regime

Sultan Ali Keshtmand was freed from prison and appointed as the Minister of Plan, then appointed Prime Minister in 1981.

1979 Formation of the Shura-e-Itifaq Hazara political party, considered a government for the whole Hazarajat.

1980 February: the insurrection of Se-e-Hoot. Hazaras in Kabul defied the Kabul regime and demonstrated their opposition by organizing an uprising originating from districts including Qala-e-Shada, Dasht-e-Barchi, and Afshar. The demonstrators marched toward the Soviet embassy and attacked the house of former president Hafizullah Amin and several police stations, seizing arms and

⁶ Sarabi, Humayun, 'Politics and Modern History of Hazara: Sectarian Politics in Afghanistan' Masters Thesis 2005, <http://fletcher.tufts.edu/research/2006/Sarabi.pdf>

ammunition. As a result Azai Gard Inqilab (Members of Revolutionary Guards) arrested and shot Hazaras with approximately 1,500 Hazara fatalities.

1981 January: Conflict between Hazaras and the common Russian-Afghan troops in Bamyan

1981 The Shura-e-Itifaq drive the Russian-Afghan forces out of Hazarajat (central highlands) territory.

1982: Civil war between opposing Hazara political groups (the Sazman-e Nasr and Sepah-e Pasdaran were allied in one side and Shura and Harakat on the other side.) results in the deaths and migration to other countries of many Hazaras.

1983 late: fighting between Hazara political groups result in the deaths of approximately 1000 Hazaras.

1984 The Shura-e-Itifaq is demolished by the other Hazara groups and all its followers joint mostly the Sazman-e-Nasr and Sepah-e-Pasdaran

1986 May – 1992 Dr. Najibullah Regime

1989 February: Soviets Union withdraws troops from Afghanistan

Sunni groups set up an interim government in Rawalpindi however there is not Shi'ia involvement in the new government.

Formation of Hezb-e Wahdat brings all the Hazara Shi'ia parties (except Harakat-e Islami) united into one group.

1992: The Kabul government fail and Mujahideen take control of the country.

1992-1996: Civil war. Fighting starts between Ittihad forces (a Sunni-Pashtun party led by Abdul Rabb al Sayyaf) and the Hezb-e Wahdat forces (Abdul Ali Mazari) in west Kabul.

1993: Fighting between tribal factions leaves some 10,000 civilians dead.⁷

1993: Massacre of Afshar (district in west Kabul). Approximately 700 Hazaras massacred and many women raped under the command of President Rabbani and his defense minister Ahmad Shah Masood.

1995 March: Death of Hazara leader Abdul Ali Mazari resulting in an exodus of Hazaras from Kabul.⁸

1996: Taliban take over Kabul and the Northern Alliance are driven out leaving at least 50,000 dead.

⁷ http://www.worldpress.org/specials/pp/taliban_timeline.htm

⁸ http://www.afghanhindu.info/gen_art4.htm

1997 May: killings of the Taliban in Mazar-e Sharif were initiated by the Hazaras and then the population of Mazar-e-Sharif

Taliban leaving Mazar-e-Sharif killed hundreds of Hazaras in retaliation in the village of Qizil Abad, in the south of Mazar-e Sharif.

1998 February: Earthquake in the Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border Region. 2,323 people killed, 818 injured, 8,094 houses destroyed, 6,725 livestock killed and landslides in the Rostaq area.⁹

1998 May: Earthquake in the Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border Region. At least 4,000 people killed, many thousands injured and homeless in Badakhshan and Takhar Provinces.¹⁰

1998 June: Taliban recapture Mazar-e-Sharif massacring some 2000 Hazaras.

1998 September: Taliban capture Bamyan with few Hazara casualties.

1999 April: Hezb-e Wahdat (Northern Alliance) recapture the Bamyan.

1999 May: Taliban recapture Bamyan killing hundreds of Hazaras.

2000 May: Massacre of Hazaras at Robatak Pass (between the towns of Tashkurgan and Pul-i Khumri) by Taliban¹¹

2001 January: Taliban forces recapture the Yakaolang district resulting in the deaths of around 300 Hazaras.

⁹ U.S. Geological Survey website, National Earthquake Information Center
http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/world/historical_country.php#afghanistan

¹⁰ U.S. Geological Survey website, National Earthquake Information Center
http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/world/historical_country.php#afghanistan

¹¹ http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/2001/afghanistan/afghan101-04.htm#P176_25561

Burma History Key Dates

1852 - Britain annexes lower Burma, including Rangoon, following the second Anglo-Burmese war.

1885-86 - Britain captures Mandalay after a brief battle; Burma becomes a province of British India.

1937 - Britain separates Burma from India and makes it a crown colony.

Japanese occupation

1942 - Japan invades and occupies Burma with some help from the Japanese-trained Burma Independence Army, which later transforms itself into the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) and resists Japanese rule.

1945 - Britain liberates Burma from Japanese occupation with help from the AFPFL, led by Aung San.

1947 - Aung San and six members of his interim government assassinated by political opponents led by U Saw, a nationalist rival of Aung San's. U Nu, foreign minister in Ba Maw's government, which ruled Burma during the Japanese occupation, asked to head the AFPFL and the government.

1948 - Burma becomes independent with U Nu as prime minister.

1958-60 - Caretaker government, led by army Chief of Staff General Ne Win, formed following a split in the ruling AFPFL party.

1960 - U Nu's party faction wins decisive victory in elections, but his promotion of Buddhism as the state religion and his tolerance of separatism angers the military.

1962 - U Nu's faction ousted in military coup led by Gen Ne Win, who abolishes the federal system and inaugurates "the Burmese Way to Socialism" - nationalising the economy, forming a single-party state with the Socialist Programme Party as the sole political party, and banning independent newspapers.

1974 - New constitution comes into effect, transferring power from the armed forces to a People's Assembly headed by Ne Win and other former military leaders; body of former United Nations secretary-general U Thant returned to Burma for burial.

1975 - Opposition National Democratic Front formed by regionally-based minority groups, who mounted guerrilla insurgencies.

1981 - Ne Win relinquishes the presidency to San Yu, a retired general, but continues as chairman of the ruling Socialist Programme Party.

1982 - Law designating people of non-indigenous background as "associate citizens" in effect bars such people from public office.

1987 - Currency devaluation wipes out many people's savings and triggers anti-government riots.

1988 - Thousands of people are killed in anti-government riots. The State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) is formed.

1989 - Slorc declares martial law, arrests thousands of people, including advocates of democracy and human rights, renames Burma Myanmar, with the capital, Rangoon, becoming Yangon. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Aung San, is put under house arrest.

Thwarted elections

1990 - Opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) wins landslide victory in general election, but the result is ignored by the military.

1991 - Aung San Suu Kyi awarded Nobel Peace Prize for her commitment to peaceful change.

1992 - Than Shwe replaces Saw Maung as Slorc chairman, prime minister and defence minister. Several political prisoners freed in bid to improve Burma's international image.

1995 - Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest after six years.

1996 - Aung San Suu Kyi attends first NLD congress since her release; Slorc arrests more than 200 delegates on their way to party congress.

1997 - Burma admitted to Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean); Slorc renamed State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

1998 - 300 NLD members released from prison; ruling council refuses to comply with NLD deadline for convening of parliament; student demonstrations broken up.

1999 - Aung San Suu Kyi rejects ruling council conditions to visit her British husband, Michael Aris, who dies of cancer in UK.

2000 September - Ruling council lifts restrictions on movements of Aung San Suu Kyi and senior NLD members.

2000 October - Aung San Suu Kyi begins secret talks with ruling council.

2008: Cyclone Nargis kills around 130,000.

Karen Timeline

The Karen are the largest of the ethnic minority groups living in the mountain ranges of eastern Burma and northwestern Thailand. There are over six million Karen in Burma, and over 400,000 in Thailand, most of whom are divided into two subgroups - the Skaw (or Pgaganyaw) and the Pwo (or Plong). Karen-speaking people are spread over a large area, mainly on the Burma frontier with Thailand.¹²

1942: the Japanese invaded Burma with the help of the Burma Independence Army (BIA), who led them into the country.

1946 August: The Karen sent a Goodwill Mission to England to make the Karen case known to the British Government requesting a Karen State.

1948 January 4: Burma got its independence from the British.

1948 February 11: a peaceful demonstration by 4000,000 Karens all over the country was staged

1948 December: Karen leaders arrested in many parts of the country. General Smith Dun, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Burma Army (a Karen), was forced to resign. Many Karen villages were attacked and many villagers were shot, women raped, properties looted and homes burnt.

1949 January 30: Burmese Government declares the KNDO (Karen National Defence Organisation) unlawful.

1960s/1970s: A policy of "Four Cuts" was implemented to cut off supplies of foods, funds, recruits, and intelligence from opposition groups.¹³

1988 August: 8888 Popular Uprising. The uprising began with students in Rangoon on August 8, 1988. Student protests spread throughout the country resulting in hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating against the military regime. The uprising ended on September 18, after a bloody military coup by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). Thousands of deaths have been attributed to the military during this uprising.

1994: the KNA headquarters in Manerplaw, near the Thai border, falls to the tatmadaw (Burmese Army).

A group of Buddhist soldiers in the KNLA (now known as the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, or DKBA) went over to the side of the Burmese regime, alleging among other things Christian domination and anti-Buddhist discrimination in the KNU

¹² <http://karenpeople.org/>

¹³ <http://www.partnersworld.org.au/karen.html>

Mon Key Dates

1948: The Mon National Defence Organization (MNDO) is formed as a response to what was seen as the growing threat of a Burman-dominated state established without any consideration of the rights or claims of the Mon.¹⁴

1974: To address some of the Mon demands a theoretically autonomous Mon State is established under the 1974 Constitution.

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- Minorities at Risk Project, Chronology for Karens in Burma, 2004, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/469f3871b.html> [accessed 6 September 2009] (post-1990)

¹⁴ <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=search&docid=49749cdc6e&skip=0&query=mon>

Sierra Leone Timeline¹⁵

1808 - Freetown settlement becomes crown colony.

1896 - Britain sets up a protectorate over the Freetown hinterland.

1954 - Sir Milton Margai, leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party, appointed chief minister.

1961 - Sierra Leone becomes independent on April 27.

Queen Elizabeth visits the country in November

1967 - Military coup deposes Premier Siaka Stevens' government.

1968 - Siaka Stevens returns to power at the head of a civilian government following another military coup.

1971 - Sierra Leone declared a republic, Stevens becomes executive president.

1978 - New constitution proclaims Sierra Leone a one-party state with the All People's Congress as the sole legal party.

1985 - Major-General Joseph Saidu Momoh becomes president following Stevens's retirement.

1987 - Momoh declares state of economic emergency.

1991 - Start of civil war. Former army corporal Foday Sankoh and his Revolutionary United Front (RUF) begin campaign against President Momoh, capturing towns on border with Liberia.

1991 September - New constitution providing for a multiparty system adopted.

1992 - President Joseph Momoh ousted in military coup led by Captain Valentine Strasser, apparently frustrated by failure to deal with rebels. Under international pressure, Strasser announces plans for the first multi-party elections since 1967.

1996: Flood affects 200,000.¹⁶

1996 January - Strasser ousted in military coup led by his defence minister, Brigadier Julius Maada Bio.

1996 - Ahmad Tejan Kabbah elected president in February, signs peace accord with Sankoh's rebels in November.

¹⁵ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1065898.stm

¹⁶ <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/statistics/?cid=154>

1997 - Peace deal unravels. President Kabbah deposed by army in May. Major Johnny Paul Koroma, in prison awaiting the outcome of a treason trial, leads the military junta - the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). Koroma suspends the constitution, bans demonstrations and abolishes political parties.

Kabbah flees to Guinea to mobilise international support.

1997 July - The Commonwealth suspends Sierra Leone.

1997 October - The UN Security Council imposes sanctions against Sierra Leone, barring the supply of arms and petroleum products. A British company, Sandline, nonetheless supplies "logistical support", including rifles, to Kabbah allies.

1998 February - Nigerian-led West African intervention force Ecomog storms Freetown and drives rebels out.

1998 March - Kabbah makes a triumphant return to Freetown amid scenes of public rejoicing.

1999 January - Rebels backing Revolutionary United Front leader Foday Sankoh seize parts of Freetown from Ecomog. After weeks of bitter fighting they are driven out, leaving behind 5,000 dead and a devastated city.

1999 May - A ceasefire is greeted with cautious optimism in Freetown amid hopes that eight years of civil war may soon be over.

1999 July - Six weeks of talks in the Togolese capital, Lome, result in a peace agreement, under which the rebels receive posts in government and assurances they will not be prosecuted for war crimes.

1999 November/December - UN troops arrive to police the peace agreement - but one rebel leader, Sam Bokari, says they are not welcome. Meanwhile, Ecomog troops are attacked outside Freetown.

2000 April/May - UN forces come under attack in the east of the country, but far worse is in store when first 50, then several hundred UN troops are abducted.

2000 May - Rebels close in on Freetown; 800 British paratroopers sent to Freetown to evacuate British citizens and to help secure the airport for UN peacekeepers

Rebel leader Foday Sankoh captured.

2000 August - Eleven British soldiers taken hostage by a renegade militia group called the West Side Boys.

2000 September - British forces mount operation to rescue remaining UK hostages.